

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 DLOS-07 OMB-01 COA-02

SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4600

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USUN 1558

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

SECDEF WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

S E C R E T ANKARA 4684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GR, TU

SUBJ: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 3700

1. SEEMS TO US THAT TURKS WOULD REGARD SUGGESTION IN PARA 2
REFTEL AS ONE-SIDED. AMONG ARGUMENTS GOT LIKELY TO RAISE
AGAINST IT ARE:

A. FREEZE ON EXPLORATION IN DISPUTED AREAS WOULD AFFECT

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ONLY TURKISH EFFORTS, SINCE TURKS ASSERT GREECE HAS ALREADY

COMPLETED ITS EXPLORATIONS (ANKARA 4566).

B. FREEZE WOULD DELAY TURKEY'S POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF MUCH-NEEDED RESOURCE;

C. FREEZE WOULD TAKE PRESSURE OFF GREECE TO REACH NEGOTIATED SOLUTION; AND

D. FREEZE WOULD HAVE NO BEARING ON ANOTHER MAJOR ASPECT OF AEGEAN DISPUTE: GREECE'S INTENTION TO EXTEND TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES WHICH TURKS DETERMINED TO CHALLENGE (ATHENS 3701, ANKARA 4596).

2. WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT IF U.S. MADE SUCH PROPOSAL TURKS WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT AND WOULD FURTHERMORE DOUBT OUR IMPARTIALITY.

3. IN OUR VIEW, IT ESSENTIAL THAT BOTH GREEKS AND TURKS REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE UNILATERAL ACTIONS AND CHALLENGES. WE HAVE BEEN EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER WHAT EMBASSY ATHENS HAS REPORTED RE ATTITUDE OF GREEK MILITARY ON ONE HAND AND, OTHER HAND, BY COMBATIVE, TURBULENT ATTITUDE WE ENCOUNTERING HERE IN BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CIRCLES. TYPICAL OF COMMENTS HERE IS CONSTANTLY REPEATED REFRAIN THAT GREEKS MUST BE OUT OF THEIR MINDS IF THEY THINK TURKS WILL EVER PERMIT AEGEAN TO BECOME A GREEK LAKE. IN THIS CONNECTION EMBASSY HAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT 12 MILE ANNOUNCEMENT BY GOG WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A TURK SHOW OF FORCE IN NEWLY CLAIMED GREEK AREAS (ANKARA 4596).

4. IF US-OR ANYONE ELSE-IS TO ATTEMPT TO BROKER THIS PROBLEM, THEREFORE, SERIOUSNESS OF BOTH SIDES MUST BE ACCEPTED AND FORMULA DEVISED ACCORDINGLY. IN THIS REGARD, WE THINK THERE MIGHT BE CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE IF BOTH SIDES WERE CALLED UPON TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER UNILATERAL ASSERTIONS OF CLAIMS--SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING OIL EXPLORATION AND EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES--FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD DURING WHICH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CARRIED ON. THIS LIMITED MORATORIUM WOULD APPEAR MORE EVEN-HANDED, WE BELIEVE, AND WOULD HAVE TWIN ADVANTAGES OF DEFERRING RISK

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OF CONFLICT WHILE STIMULATING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS.

5. THERE REMAINS QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD MAKE PROPOSAL. I SUGGEST BEST CHOICE WOULD BE NATO SYG LUNS, WHO ALREADY HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN PROBLEM AND SHOULD, I BELIEVE, BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE USING HIS GOOD OFFICES IN RESOLVING DISPUTE. THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR SUGGESTING THAT U.S. NOT CARRY PROPOSAL: FIRST, PAST INVOLVEMENT IN GREEK-

TURKISH DISPUTE OVER CYPRUS HAS COST U.S. HEAVILY; AND,
SECOND, IF U.S. TAKES STEP TOWARD INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN
AEGEAN DISPUTE AT THIS EARLY STAGE, WE RISK EXPENDING OUR
PRESITGE AND INFLUENCE BEFORE POSSIBLY CRITICAL STAGE REACHED.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EMB ATHEN'S COMMENTS.
MACOMBER

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